

George Town, Bermuda, Jan 8th 1841

My Dear Caroline, — Our acquaintance & mutual regard is of such long standing that I do not think it necessary to make any apology for this present letter. On the contrary I am well satisfied that you will be pleased at receiving it, and will take pleasure in answering it.

Though I left the hyperborean regions of New England some what suddenly, you are not to imagine that I have retired in disgust, & have abandoned the field, ^{altogether} the country twaddlers by whom the public sentiment of New England is controlled, content to live in quietude and in comfort. That is not in my nature. I am impelled by an irresistible impulse to act, — or rather to write, — for the sharpened point of a goose quill is the most potent instrument in my power to employ, — and the object at which I aim is neither more nor less than a total revolution in the whole system of philosophy relative to man considered as an intellectual & rational being. My principle is, to apply to the philosophy of man in the same inductive method which has proved so successful in advancing what is called natural philosophy. Man is a part of nature; the philosophy of man is a part of natural philosophy; & it ought to be investigated by the same methods. This has been acknowledged by what is called the Scotch school of philosophy, the school of Reid & Stewart; it is acknowledged by Comte & his followers, & by the existing schools of German philosophy. But though these people have talked much about observation; they have im-

played it very little; & they have studied the traditions of
the schools, & the means of Plato, ^{& the Mystics,} much more than them-
selves & those about them.

In my first attempts to apply the inductive method
to the moral sciences, I was myself greatly impeded by
the same obstacles; but having at length, as last year would
say, "swallowed all formulas," risen above all ~~prejudices~~ pre-
judices of education, I began to have better success; & succeed-
ed in discovering some of the principal laws upon which
the operations of human nature are governed. For want how-
ever of a complete mastery of the whole subject, there were
moral phenomena which I found great difficulty in un-
derstanding, - and as Aristotle is said to have drowned him-
self because he could not explain a certain phenomenon
of the tide on the coast of Greece, - so too exclusive an
application to study, & repetition of certain difficulties which
I encountered in my investigation of some points of morals,
~~I found a difficulty, and a difficulty, -~~ joined to my disappoint-
ment at the scandalous misbehavior of my American people
whom I ^{had} enlisted into a party, but devoted to some purpose,
& twice enabled to defeat their opponents, - but who deserted
& betrayed me, ^{& the cause,} in the most shameful manner, & soon left me
destitute of any means of support, - those causes concerning
with some others, brought on a very severe attack of low spirits,
a disorder to which I have an hereditary pre-disposition,
& which made me for a while quite incapable of any thing.

Receiving at that stage of affairs, the offer of a sit-
uation here, I resolved at once to try the effect of a tropi-
cal climate, of the salutary effect of which my experience in
Florida left me little room for doubt; & here accordingly I
came, without taking leave of hardly any of my acquaintances,
for which purpose I had little time, & still less inclination.
The curative effect of the climate has far exceeded my most
 sanguine expectations; and with the recovery of my health, hav-
ing ample leisure for that purpose, I have returned again
to my scientific labors, and having solved the difficulties I

had accumulated, and which obliged me, previous to leaving home to destroy a great heap of papers. I am now going on with my works, & have already completed the first. & in many points of view, the most difficult of the whole.

My system of the Philosophy of human nature is to be included in eight Treatises, ~~and~~ 1. Theory of Morals, 2. Theory of Politics, 3. Theory of Taste & Criticism, 4. Theory of Political Economy, 5. Theory of Human Nature, or a statement of the laws of human thought & action, including a refutation of the mystical or spiritual philosophy which has enjoyed so universal a currency during the last fifteen hundred years. These treatises on the nature of theories, or demonstrations of certain scientific facts. The three following treatises, namely, 6. Theory of Education, 7. Theory of the Administration of Justice, 8. Theory of Law, are of the nature of problems, - containing the practical application of the preceding theories.

The first five of these Treatises I hope to conclude with in the current year.

Meanwhile I am collecting facts for the purpose of showing the results of emancipation in the West Indies, - for which I enjoy considerable advantages, from receiving & reading all the island newspapers.

With respect to the subject of immigration, I have only time now to say, that I am perfectly satisfied, that the free colored people of the United States, who have ^{had} ~~any~~ ^{or} skill in ^{practical} ~~agriculture~~ agricultural labor, or who have some little the mechanic arts, as well as those who have some little capital & acquaintance with trade, cannot fail to benefit themselves greatly by immigrating either to Jamaica, Trinidad or Grenada. Each of these places has its own particular advantages. With respect to those persons who have neither skill, industry, nor ambition, they of course would not gain by the change, & had better remain where they are.

It is probable that this colony will shortly appropriate a considerable sum of money to pay the expense of immigrants

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Write me every thing that is going on in your part of the world. As I receive regularly twice a month all the London papers & periodicals, I am by no means so much out of the world here as you might suppose; and Massachusetts at this distance, looks extremely small. Now when I shall be glad to hear all that is going on. The least touch - some way of writing to me, will be to send your letters directed to me here, to the care of Messrs R.M. & S.G. Clarke, New Haven, to be forwarded by the first opportunity. Those gentlemen have two vessels running constantly between ~~there~~^{here} & New Haven.